

EDUCATION, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of the meeting of the Education, Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel held on Monday, 8 August 2016 at 6.30 pm at the Civic Offices, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Will Purvis (in the Chair)
David Tompkins
Ben Dowling
Paul Godier
Suzy Horton

Also present - Councillor Ryan Brent observing as Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care.

Officers

Alison Jeffery, Director of Children's Services

Witnesses

Lucy Rylatt, Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board
Business Manager, Portsmouth City Council
Detective Superintendent Vicky Dennis, Hampshire
Police

53. Apologies for absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gemma New.
Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Purvis.

54. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

Councillor Godier declared a personal interest as his sister in law works for the Youth Offending Team.

55. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 19 July 2016 (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel held on 19 July 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

56. A review into how well Portsmouth City Council and partners are preventing and dealing with child sexual exploitation (AI 4)

The vice chair invited everyone to introduce themselves which they then did. He particularly welcomed the witnesses to the meeting and invited them both to give a brief introduction of their work.

(a) Lucy Rylatt, Business Manager, Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board.

Lucy explained that in April 2011, PSCB recognised children at risk of CSE as one of the vulnerable groups that should be prioritised in their Business Plan. Between January 2012 and March 2015 there was a 4LSCB Strategy Group which coordinated the work of Police, Health and the Local Authority across Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight.

The PSCB also established its own CSE Strategy Group to oversee the work of agencies in Portsmouth to ensure there was sufficient cooperation locally. It used the learning that was happening operationally to develop a CSE Risk Assessment Toolkit designed to best measure risk as well as support practitioners in this process.

In March 2015 the 4LSCB MET Strategic Group was disbanded as each area had now developed their own groups and this was seen as a duplication. The Portsmouth CSE Group broadened its remit in response to this to include oversight of the issues arising from children who go missing from home or care and those who may be trafficked. Partners in the PSCB MET Group include Children's Social Care, Hampshire Constabulary, Portsmouth CCG, Solent NHS Trust, probation, education representative, Portsmouth Abuse and Rape Counselling Service (PARCS) and Barnardos.

There is a CSE risk assessment tool which is based on best practice and is well recognised and there is a toolkit to accompany this. Southampton, Hampshire and IoW use the SERAF tool but Portsmouth decided to develop its own which is easier to explain.

The PSCB has developed a number of workshops during 2016. Two CSE and Trafficking workshops were held in January and February with 22 attendees on each, targeting key professionals. Since March an online CSE module has been made available and a Missing, Exploited & Trafficking training session had been embedded into the PSCB Training Programme. Up to July 2016 128 practitioners had been through workshops or online training on MET. The PSCB training programme offers a safeguarding training pathway for people working directly with children and parents to develop their skills and knowledge and also ensure that specialist areas are covered through workshops and seminars.

The MET operational group meets regularly and social workers attend this, along with police officer, Barnardo's and education services. At this group they review the children identified as high, medium or low risk of CSE and ensure they have consistency across these children identified. The group then focuses on ensuring sufficient and robust safety plans are in place for those children at high risk and those at medium risk that are nearing high risk. The risk assessment tool is then used along with other data to assess whether the work they are doing is being effective in terms of identifying at risk children. Date includes a number of targets

Lucy explained that the MET strategy is embedded and runs from April 2016 to March 2019. It is based around five pillars for effective scrutiny:

- Scrutiny and oversight
- Understand and Identify
- Prevention
- Intervention and Support

- Disruption and justice.

The PSCB are now looking at training up the night time economy workforce in CSE. Hampshire Constabulary informed them of Operation Makesafe which is a campaign led by the metropolitan police that was rolled out in the London boroughs to raise awareness of CSE in the business community including hotels, taxi companies and licensed premises. The team are working with the licensing department within the council and have created an event on 26 and 27 September which is being held in Portsmouth Guildhall. There will be 6 workshops held over the two days, one and a half hour taster sessions to train on what CSE is, what the warning signs are that might help them identify a child who may be being groomed and what to do if they become aware of a vulnerable child. Lucy circulated to members a collection of posters from the Make Safe campaign that can be displayed one for children's care homes, one for taxis, one for licensed premises, one for hotels. Copies will be available for all attendees of the event in September and Lucy advised that following the event she would provide an update for the panel on how successful the event was. There already has been some success stories following the introduction of operation Make Safe in the area. An example included someone reporting to the police a 14 year old girl in a hotel drinking champagne with a man, which the police followed up and it transpired the child was a person at risk and the police intervened.

Previously Barnardo's and PSCB tried contacting taxi drivers to offer them training on CSE however the take-up of this was very poor. The team are therefore working with the licensing officers, who have a good relationship with taxi drivers, to promote the training and use a firm but gentle pressure, and they are hopeful that there will be more of a positive response.

In response to questions, the following points were clarified:

- It is becoming more common for local authorities to make CSE training mandatory for taxi drivers, before they are granted their licence. Councillor Godier said that he and a couple of other councillors on the panel are also on the council's licensing committee and felt that this was something that was very important and should be discussed with the licensing chair and officers. Lucy said that following the event in September once the response to the training is known, this is something that could be pursued, and she would provide the panel with information on number of taxi drivers who attended etc. following the event. Members of the public would be unlikely to see these posters as it was thought the organisations would put these posters on their staff noticeboards etc. Councillor Godier said it would be useful to have a poster for residential tower blocks and Lucy said she would look to put something together for these locations.
- There have been a range of different attendees who have attended the workshops so far across a range of agencies, including social workers, school staff, a couple of neighbourhood police officers and health colleagues.
- In June there were 2 high risk children, 33 medium risk children and 23 low risk children in Portsmouth. These numbers are fairly common.

- There has been a very good response toward the training sessions on CSE and trafficking. PSCB is doing a piece of work looking at which schools are registering for training online and cross referencing this with schools where with pupils identified at risk of CSE.
- Hampshire Constabulary has worked with all four safeguarding boards. The Alice in Wonderland CSE campaign was launched in June this year and rolled out to all secondary schools and colleges in Hampshire. The aim of the diary is to raise awareness of the signs of child sexual exploitation and help readers recognise the signs in a friend or family member. This diary is linked to the Hampshire Constabulary child sexual exploitation campaign and is aimed at children aged 12-16.
- Lucy advised that it is difficult to monitor the effectiveness of the Alice campaign and haven't yet had feedback as only started in June. Also Chelsea's choice which was a drama delivered in schools which shows an example of a young girl being groomed and highlighted the signs to look for. The PSCB can offer support to schools on CSE but they do not have the right to go into schools to give talks to students etc. Detective Superintendent Dennis added that Alice's blog will be revived again in September once children return to school and will be aimed at year 7 pupils in particular as they may be more vulnerable as they are in a new school meeting new friends etc. The campaign will continue until the end of the year. The posters shown earlier from the Operation Makesafe campaign have also been distributed to schools by Hampshire Constabulary to support the Alice campaign and the PSCB Missing, Exploited & Trafficked Strategy.
- Detective Superintendent Dennis advised that the neighbourhood policing teams are very proactive and police have been into a number of hotels where it has been drawn to their attention there may be children at risk, and the level of success has been phenomenal.

(b) Detective Superintendent Vicky Dennis, Hampshire Constabulary

Detective Superintendent Dennis explained that her role is head of public protection and she is the force strategic and tactical lead for CSE. She is also the chair of the MET strategic group and is either the chair or a member of the MET strategic groups for Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

About 18 months/2 years ago the government realised that CSE is a national threat and it is now part of the Strategic Policing Requirement. . Hampshire SE regional group constantly looking at threats to Hampshire and IoW and over the last two years CSE has scored as one of the greatest threats and is currently a force priority.

There is a big gap in identifying emerging victims and perpetrators particularly in respect of hard to reach groups include the BME, travellers, blind and deaf children and home educated children. The police are working towards how to work with these groups. It was anticipated that towards the end of the year there would be a plan in place to ensure greater inclusion with hard to reach groups.

Detective Superintendent Dennis said that she didn't have the data to hand she would like to be able to identify children and show that the risk is

reducing. She is doing a lot of work to improve datasets and looking at different ways to extract data.

Hampshire Constabulary is also looking to improve community partnership information intelligence sharing. Information is obtained from Community Partnership Information CPI forms but the Police are not receiving intelligence from partner agencies. It is very important to get health, education etc. data. Hampshire Constabulary works very closely with the councils children social care team where there is good data sharing but need to ensure pull all data together including intelligence reported from councillors which is not currently being shared.

In January the Police hosted an intervene to protect child conference for police officers and all partner agencies including the voluntary sector at St Mary's football stadium in Southampton which 500 people attended. As it was impossible to get all police officers there due to their shift patterns, the conference was videoed and training is being provided to police officers/staff who were unable to attend. Two weeks ago a member of the road policing unit stopped a perpetrator with a child in the car, which shows the importance of raising awareness amongst the road policing unit of CSE.

The police are looking to extend the Make Safe Training to festivals, hospitals and custody centres. A number of the CSE victims undertake low level crimes so it's important to give training to police officers so they can start identifying children who might be at risk of CSE.

In response to questions, the following matters were clarified:

- There is a team within Hampshire constabulary looking at online risks of CSE and identifying potential perpetrators. Lucy Rylatt added that the board have an online safety group. There was a recent PCC e-safety campaign 'Beware of Lurking Trolls!', aimed at raising awareness to children and young people of the dangers they face when online, using social media or mobile phones, which was very successful. An online safety officer has gone into children's centres to work with younger children to highlight the risks.
- With regard to vigilantes, the police are aware of a number of online vigilantes who have provided information, which led to a successful prosecution and conviction last week.
- There are no known CSE organised crime religious groups, however the police are aware of some gangs/groups operating together that the police are identifying and targeting. Many of the drug gangs are exploiting children which can lead to CSE as they become reliant on drugs so the police are actively targeting drug gangs.
- Child Sexual Exploitation is the forces key priority and Detective Superintendent Dennis confirmed that the police are not bound by ethnicity etc.
- The Police have intelligence of locations within Portsmouth where perpetrators are living.
- The CSE Guardian Angels pilot ran by Hampshire Police, PCC and Barnado's that took place in Portsmouth last year is being evaluated

and Hampshire police are looking to roll this out across the force. The patrols consisted of police officers, Barnardo's workers and council social workers targeting areas of the city where it is known that children congregate such as outside parks or convenience stores. The idea is to engage with people and pass on information about CSE. The pilot was run from 7-9pm however following the evaluation it is recognised that this needs to run later in the evening.

- The profile of perpetrators within Portsmouth is predominately 16-24 year old white British males. Detective Superintendent Dennis said she did not have specific details of perpetrators in Portsmouth, available at the meeting, but was not aware of any offenders in the city of other ethnicities.
- There is a crossover with the Healthy relationships campaign and CSE
- There are only small numbers of trafficking cases in Portsmouth, compared to other port cities. Hampshire constabulary are exploring options with border force colleagues to train them on CSE, as currently they are not trained and does not have a CSE team.
- Hampshire Constabulary will be introducing a CSE perpetrator programme at the end of August and will be the first force in the country to do this. This will focus on 16-18 year olds who have not committed criminal offences but information has raised them of concern that they may go on to offend and are bordering on or linked to perpetrators. It will not be used for any person who has committed a criminal offence. The programme will look at supporting these individuals to advise them that what they are doing could account to a criminal offence as currently there is not a lot of support available for child perpetrators.
- With regard to victims, most are white British females aged between 14-18 years. There is a hidden issue with BME children but Hampshire Police are not aware of any BME victims in Portsmouth. One of the things arising from the Alice campaign was they had not considered children who had not grown up in the UK who would not be familiar with Alice in Wonderland. Hampshire Constabulary are actively engaging with communities to improve this.
- There have been cases where former victims of CSE go on and become perpetrators.
- Data sharing between agencies is a massive issue for Hampshire constabulary. All 4 LSCB's have been asked what data they need and Detective Superintendent Dennis has compiled a list of data requirements and is looking at how a standard data system can be created. She hoped that from the autumn improvements would be made.

The meeting concluded at 7.45 pm.

Councillor Will Purvis
Chair